CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A device comprising:

   a network interface for coupling to a network; and

   a processor coupled with the network interface, in which the processor is adapted to

       establish a VoIP connection;

       place the VoIP connection on hold;

       determine whether there is return speech from the VoIP connection that has been placed on hold; and

       if so, withhold transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

2. The device of claim 1, in which

   determining is performed by interpreting a VAD ON/OFF event.

3. The device of claim 1, in which

   the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and

   determining is performed by:

   monitoring the voice path for return packets; and

   analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode speech.

4. The device of claim 3, in which

   analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to speech sustained for a predetermined time minimum.

5. The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to:

       silence-monitor to determine whether prior return speech has discontinued; and

       if so, transmit on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

6.   The device of claim 5, in which
       silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a VAD ON/OFF event.

7.   The device of claim 5, in which
       silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a received SID packet.

8.   The device of claim 5, in which
       the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and
       silence-monitoring is performed by:
       monitoring the voice path for return packets; and
       analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

9.   The device of claim 8, in which
       analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to silence sustained for a
predetermined time minimum.

10.   A device comprising:
       means for establishing a VoIP connection;
       means for placing the VoIP connection on hold;
       means for determining whether there is return speech from the VoIP
connection that has been placed on hold; and
       if so, means for withholding transmitting on-hold music/sound through the
VoIP connection.

11.   The device of claim 10, in which
       the means for determining includes means for interpreting a VAD ON/OFF
event.

12.   The device of claim 10, in which
       the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and
       the means for determining includes:
       means for monitoring the voice path for return packets; and
       means for analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode speech.

13.   The device of claim 12, in which
        the means for analyzing is for speech energy analyzes for speech sustained for
a predetermined time minimum.

5   14.   The device of claim 10, further comprising:
        means for silence-monitoring to determine whether prior return speech has
discontinued; and
        if so, means for transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP
connection.

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15.   The device of claim 14, in which
        the means for silence-monitoring includes means for interpreting a VAD
ON/OFF event.

15   16.   The device of claim 14, in which
        the means for silence-monitoring includes means for interpreting a received
SID packet.

17.   The device of claim 14, in which
20   the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and
        the means for silence-monitoring includes:
        means for monitoring the voice path for return packets; and
        means for analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

25   18.   The device of claim 17, in which
        the means for analyzing is for speech energy analyzes for speech sustained for
a predetermined time minimum.

19.   An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having
30   instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least
one device, they result in:
        establishing a VoIP connection;
        placing the VoIP connection on hold;

determining whether there is return speech from the VoIP connection that has been placed on hold; and

if so, withholding transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

20.   The article of claim 19, in which

determining is performed by interpreting a VAD ON/OFF event.

21.   The article of claim 19, in which

the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and

determining is performed by:

monitoring the voice path for return packets; and

analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode speech.

22.   The article of claim 21, in which

analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to speech sustained for a predetermined time minimum.

23.   The article of claim 19, in which the instructions further result in:

silence-monitoring to determine whether prior return speech has discontinued; and

if so, transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

24.   The article of claim 23, in which

silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a VAD ON/OFF event.

25.   The article of claim 23, in which

silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a received SID packet.

26.   The article of claim 23, in which

the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and

silence-monitoring is performed by:

monitoring the voice path for return packets; and

analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

27.   The article of claim 26, in which

analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to silence sustained for a
predetermined time minimum.

28.   A method comprising:

establishing a VoIP connection;

placing the VoIP connection on hold;

determining whether there is return speech from the VoIP connection that has
been placed on hold; and

if so, withholding transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP
connection.

29.   The method of claim 28, in which

determining is performed by interpreting a VAD ON/OFF event.

30.   The method of claim 28, in which

the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and

determining is performed by:

monitoring the voice path for return packets; and

analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode speech.

31.   The method of claim 30, in which

analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to speech sustained for a
predetermined time minimum.

32.   The method of claim 28, further comprising:

silence-monitoring to determine whether prior return speech has discontinued;
and

if so, transmitting on-hold music/sound through the VoIP connection.

33.   The method of claim 32, in which

silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a VAD ON/OFF event.

34.   The method of claim 32, in which

        silence-monitoring is performed by interpreting a received SID packet.

35.   The method of claim 32, in which

5   the VoIP connection is over a network voice path, and

        silence-monitoring is performed by:

        monitoring the voice path for return packets; and

        analyzing to determine whether the return packets encode silence.

10 36.   The method of claim 35, in which

        analyzing is for speech energy that corresponds to silence sustained for a

    predetermined time minimum.